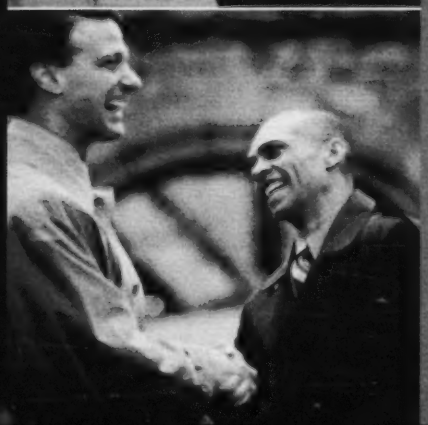
06

# Annual Alberta Labour Market Review

Employment • Unemployment
EconomicRegions • Migration
Industries • Wages
Occupations • Education
HoursWorked • UnionCoverage
Demographics • AboriginalPeople



Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

# Employment

## ALBERTA'S HOT ECONOMY PRODUCED RECORD BREAKING EMPLOYMENT GROWTH IN 2006

The number of newly employed Albertans more than tripled in the past year. In 2006, there were 86,240 newly employed Albertans compared to 26,975 in 2005.

The province's hot economy also saw the increase in the number of full-time jobs more than double. Full-time positions increased by 92,476 in 2006 from 37,419 in 2005. In 2006, part-time positions decreased by 6,237, for a net increase of 86,240 jobs.

While Alberta made up 10.1% of Canada's working age population (15+ years), the province created more than a quarter or 27.4% of all new jobs in Canada. Alberta created the second highest number of jobs in the country following Ontario, which had three times the working age population of Alberta, or 39.1%. (*Figure 1 - Provincial and National Employment, 2006*)

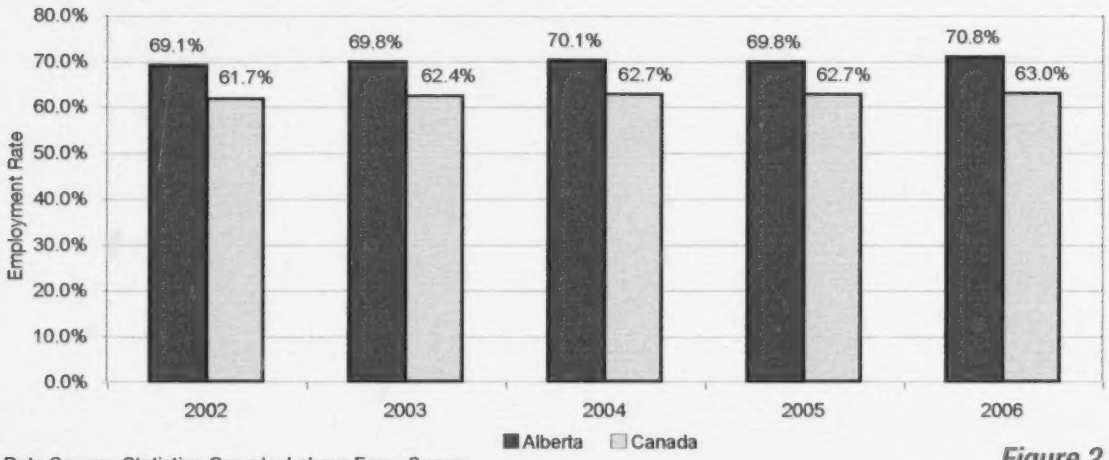
**Provincial and National Employment, 2006**

| Provinces and Canada | Employment | Employment Change | Per Cent of Employment Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Alberta | 1,870,671 | 86,240 | 27.4% |
| British Columbia | 2,195,451 | 64,903 | 20.6% |
| Manitoba | 586,990 | 6,640 | 2.1% |
| New Brunswick | 355,411 | 4,890 | 1.6% |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 215,652 | 1,593 | 0.5% |
| Nova Scotia | 441,825 | -1,237 | -0.4% |
| Ontario | 6,492,711 | 94,970 | 30.2% |
| Prince Edward Island | 68,605 | 371 | 0.1% |
| Québec | 3,765,444 | 48,152 | 15.3% |
| Saskatchewan | 491,576 | 8,091 | 2.6% |
| Canada | 16,484,335 | 314,613 | |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 1*

**Alberta and Canada Employment Rates[1], 2002 - 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 2*

[1]The employment rate measures the number of people employed out of the working age population (15+ years).

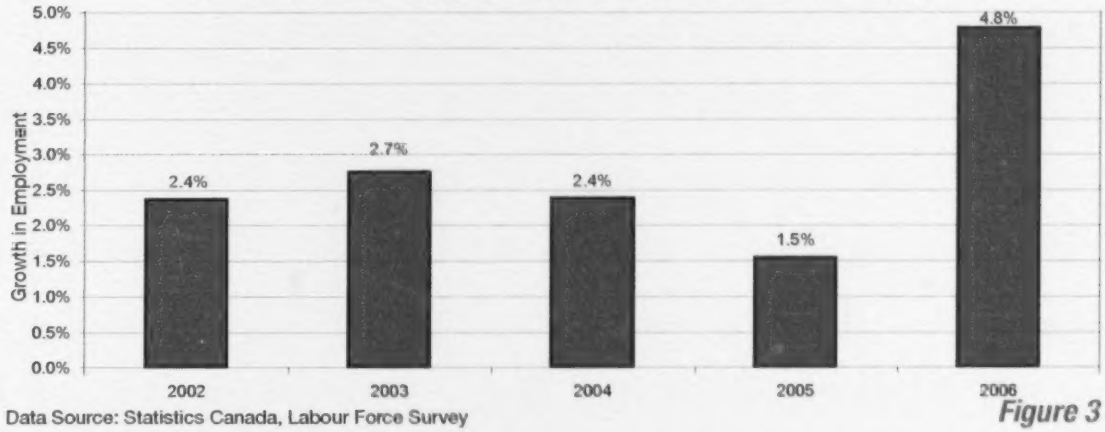
# Employment

## ALBERTA'S EMPLOYMENT GROWTH MORE THAN DOUBLES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

Alberta has experienced the highest employment rate of all Canadian provinces for the last 30 years. In 2006, Alberta's employment rate was 70.8% compared to the national rate of 63.0%. (*Figure 2 - Alberta and Canada Employment Rates, 2002 - 2006*)

In the last year, there were 1,870,671 employed Albertans and 16,484,335 employed Canadians. Alberta's employment increased by 4.8% while Canada's showed an increase of 1.9%, or 314,613, from 2005 to 2006. From 2002 to 2006, the number of people employed in Alberta grew from 1,670,826 to 1,870,671, representing an average annual increase of 49,961. The largest year-to-year increase, or 86,240, occurred between 2005 and 2006. (*Figure 3 - Alberta Annual Average Growth in Employment, 2002 - 2006* and *Figure 4 - Alberta Annual Average Employment, 2002 - 2006*)

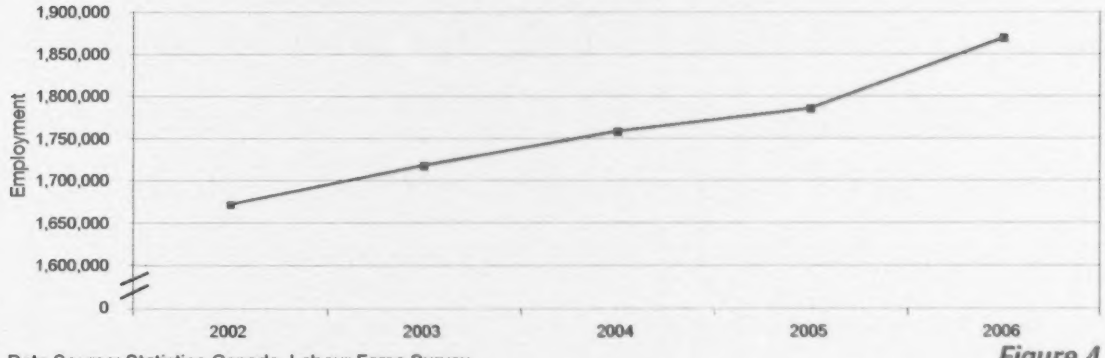
**Alberta Annual Average Growth in Employment, 2002 - 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 3*

**Alberta Annual Average Employment, 2002 - 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 4*

NOTE: The pair of slanted lines are used to represent a discontinuity in the employment numbers and to display the finer details of the differences between the first and last data points.

# Unemployment

## ALBERTA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY

Alberta's annual unemployment rate[2] of 3.4% was a 30-year low for the country.

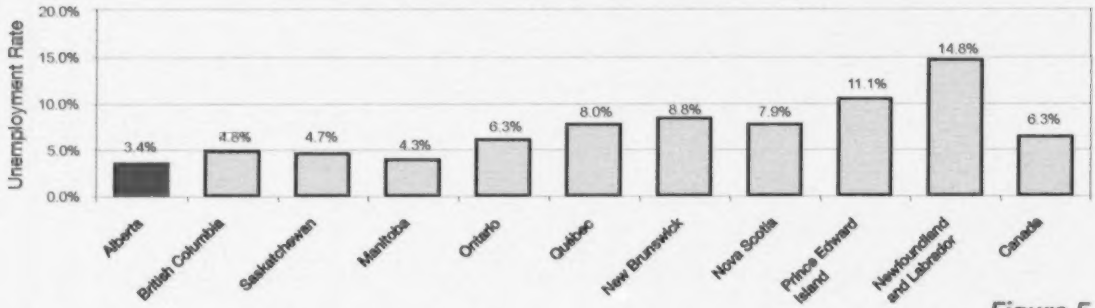
In 2006, Alberta's unemployment rate was followed by Manitoba, at 4.3%, and Saskatchewan at 4.7%. (*Figure 5 - Provincial and National Unemployment Rates, 2006*)

Both Alberta and Canada's unemployment rates have been steadily declining since 2002. (*Figure 6 - Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2002 - 2006*)

In 2006, 31 of 53 major occupational groups in the province had an unemployment rate of less than 3.0%, which reflects skill shortages.

According to *Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook (2006 - 2016)*, Alberta may experience a labour shortage as high as 109,000 within the next 10 years. The labour market is expected to grow by 400,000 while 291,000 workers are expected to join the labour force.

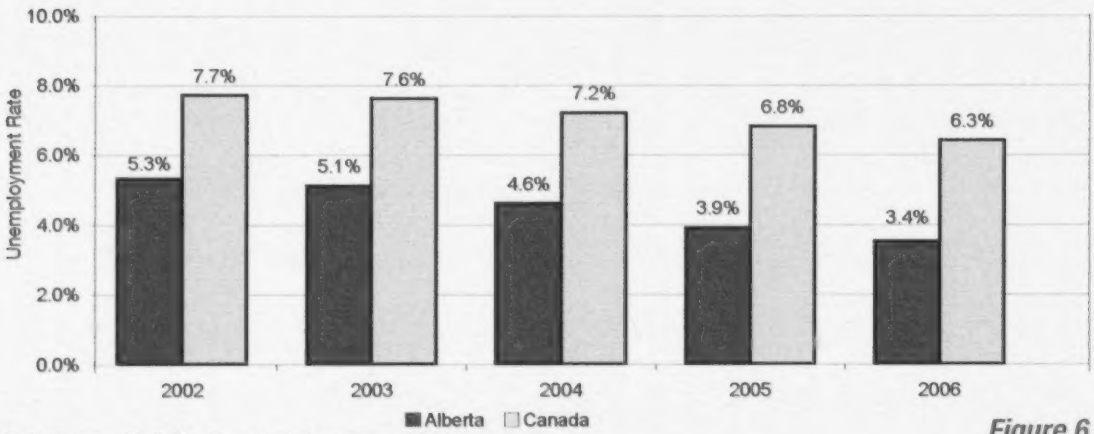
**Provincial and National Unemployment Rates, 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 5*

**Alberta and Canada Unemployment Rates, 2002 - 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 6*



[2]The unemployment rate measures the number of people in the labour force who are unemployed. The labour force includes individuals who are employed or unemployed and looking for work.

# Economic Regions

## MOST ECONOMIC REGIONS IN ALBERTA EXPERIENCED UNPRECEDENTED EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Calgary economic region led the province in employment growth, adding 47,417 people to the labour force. Edmonton economic region contributed the next highest number at 10,817.

The unemployment rate was 3.9% in the Edmonton economic region and 3.4% in the Calgary economic region. (*Figure 7 - Northern Economic Region Unemployment Rates in Alberta, 2002 - 2006* and *Figure 8 - Southern Economic Region Unemployment Rates in Alberta, 2002 - 2006*)

Camrose - Drumheller economic region had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.8% in 2006.

Lethbridge - Medicine Hat economic region had the second lowest unemployment rate at 3.1%. This economic region also saw the largest decrease in its unemployment rate by 0.8 percentage points from 2005 to 2006.

Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake economic region experienced the largest unemployment rate increase, or 0.8 percentage points, and reached 4.4%.

**Northern Economic Region Unemployment Rates in Alberta, 2002 - 2006**

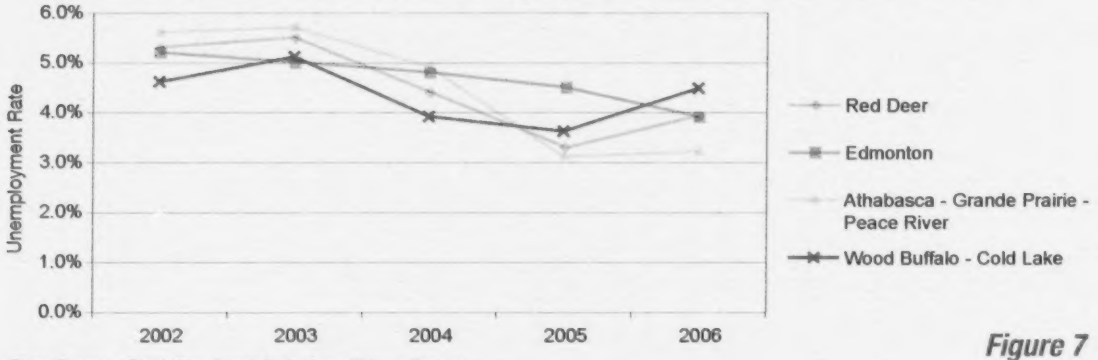



*Figure 7*

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

**Southern Economic Region Unemployment Rates in Alberta, 2002 - 2006**

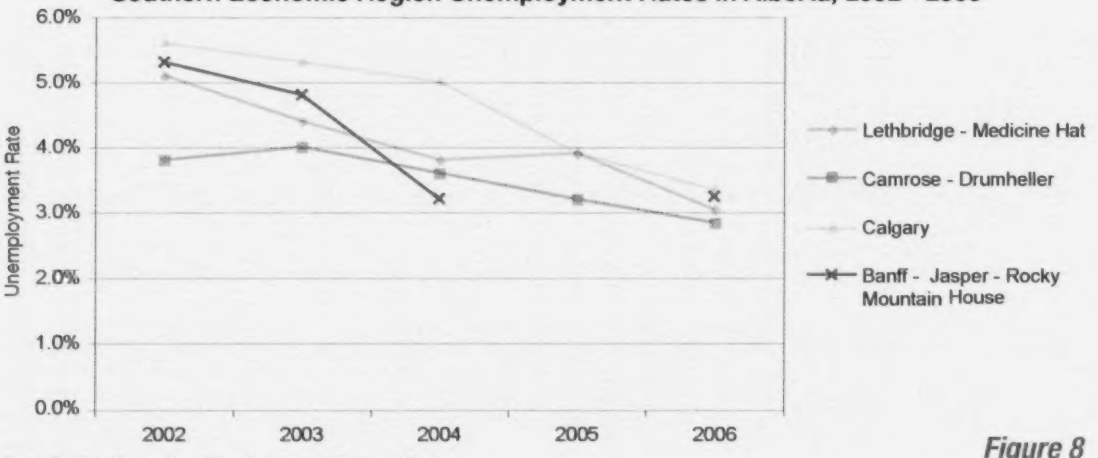
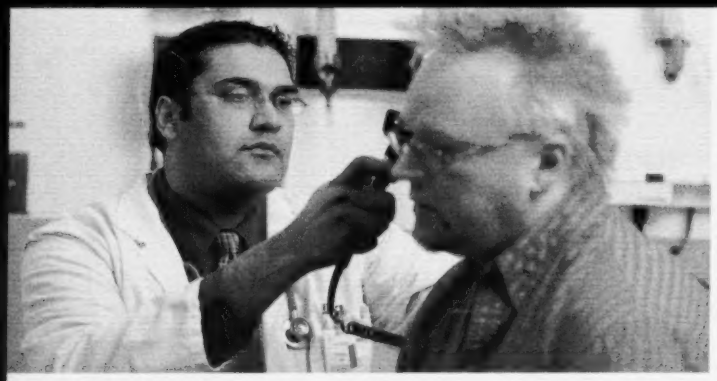



*Figure 8*

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

NOTE: In 2005, the Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House economic region's unemployment rate was not released due to insufficient data.



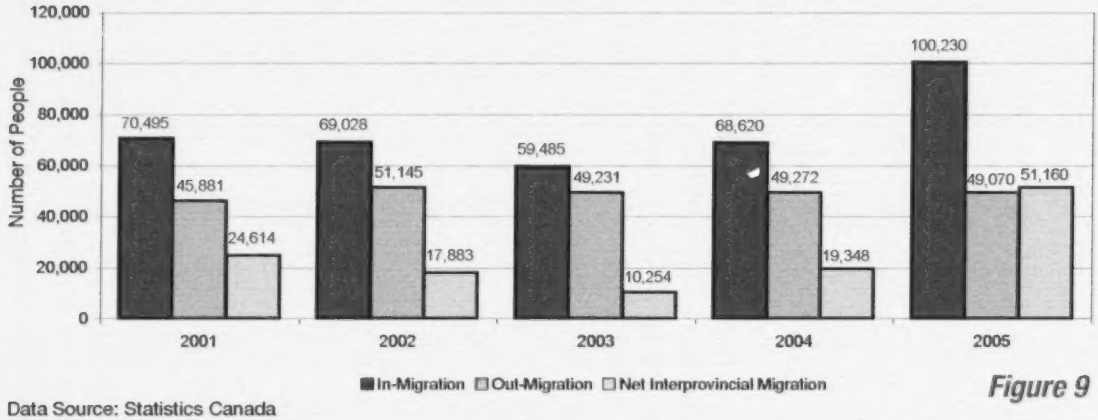
# Migration

## ALBERTA'S STRONG ECONOMY ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN 2005

Alberta gained a net of 65,360 people through interprovincial and international migration in 2005, the highest since 2001.

The 2005 interprovincial migration figure was more than two and a half times that of 2004's, which was 19,348[3]. *(Figure 9 - Alberta Interprovincial Migration, 2001 - 2005)*

**Alberta Interprovincial Migration, 2001 - 2005**

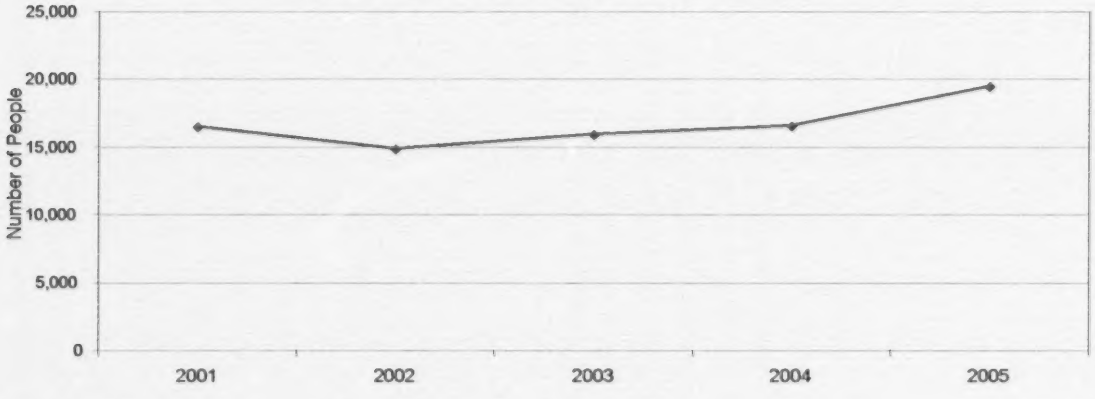



Data Source: Statistics Canada

*Figure 9*

In 2005, there were 19,403 landed immigrants in Alberta. The number of landed immigrants to Alberta has been rising since 2002, with the greatest year-over-year increase occurring between 2004 and 2005, at 2,931. *(Figure 10 - Alberta Landed Immigrants, 2001 - 2005)*

**Alberta Landed Immigrants, 2001 - 2005**




Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

*Figure 10*



[3]Represents most recent migration figures from Alberta Finance, which could be different from previously published Annual Alberta Labour Market Reviews.

# Industries

## EMPLOYMENT GROWTH STRONGEST IN SERVICES-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

The Services-Producing industries in Alberta experienced more job growth than the Goods-Producing industries in 2006. Employment for the former increased by 54,478 compared to 31,762 for the latter.

The following industries led the way in employment gains: Public Administration, 13,255; Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, 13,043; and Construction, 12,882. (*Figure 11 - Alberta Industry Labour Force Statistics, 2006*)

The top three industries with the largest percentage change in employment from 2005 to 2006 were: Utilities, 29.1%; Public Administration, 19.5%; and Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, 10.6%.

The table below reports the number employed, change in employment and unemployment rate by industry group. The industry groups are sorted in descending order by 2006 employment.

**Alberta Industry Labour Force Statistics, 2006**

| Industry Group | 2006 Employment | Change in Employment | Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| Retail Trade | 211,933 | 38 | 3.3% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 179,549 | 7,070 | 1.2% |
| Construction | 172,577 | 12,882 | 4.4% |
| Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 142,236 | 11,145 | 1.8% |
| Manufacturing | 137,549 | 6,619 | 2.2% |
| Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction | 135,626 | 13,043 | 3.0% |
| Educational Services | 130,393 | 10,009 | 2.6% |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 114,850 | 6,121 | 4.4% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 106,201 | -658 | 2.0% |
| Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing | 96,164 | 953 | 1.4% |
| Other Services | 87,942 | 5,365 | 1.9% |
| Public Administration | 81,079 | 13,255 | 1.4% |
| Wholesale Trade | 70,469 | 3,964 | 1.7% |
| Information, Culture and Recreation | 68,324 | -2,819 | 4.8% |
| Management, Administrative and Other Support | 62,657 | 33 | 5.0% |
| Agriculture | 52,312 | -3,896 | 1.1% |
| Utilities | 17,090 | 3,854 | 0.3% |
| Forestry and Logging with Support Activities | 3,510 | -916 | 5.5% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 11*

# Wages

## ALBERTANS ARE THE HIGHEST PAID IN THE COUNTRY

In 2006, Alberta recorded the highest average hourly wage rate in Canada.

Alberta's combined average hourly wage for full-time and part-time employees rose by 6.9 percent to $21.12 in 2006, which was the biggest year-over-year increase in almost 30 years. In 2005, the combined average hourly wage was $19.76.

Full-time and part-time employees' average wages were $22.34 and $14.41 respectively in 2006.

From 2005 to 2006, the top three industries with the largest increase in average hourly wage rate were: Utilities; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing; and Transportation and Warehousing. Utilities increased by $2.79 to an average hourly wage rate of $29.44; Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Leasing rose by $1.79 to an average hourly wage rate of $20.99; and Transportation and Warehousing was higher by $1.71, reaching an average hourly wage rate of $21.57 in 2006.

# Occupations

## LARGEST EMPLOYMENT INCREASE IN TRADES, TRANSPORT AND EQUIPMENT OPERATOR AND RELATED OCCUPATIONS

The occupational groups that employed the greatest number of people were Sales and Service Occupations, 426,738; Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations, 340,513; and Business, Finance and Administration Occupations, 338,253. (*Figure 12 - Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Major Occupational Groups, 2006*)

The occupational group in Alberta that experienced the largest increase in employment was the Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations group at 30,067. Employment gain made in this occupational group was driven by increased construction projects in the province. Statistics Canada's Canadian Economic Observer, September 2006, indicated that "in the first half of 2006, non-residential building in Alberta surpassed Quebec for the first time ever."

The next top two employment increases were in the following occupational groups: Business, Finance and Administration Occupations, 20,528; and Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Services and Religion, 17,917.

**Alberta Labour Force Statistics by Major Occupational Groups, 2006**

| Occupational Group | 2006 Employment | Change in Employment | Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sales and Service Occupations | 426,738 | 11,410 | 3.9% |
| Trades, Transport and Equipment Operators and Related Occupations | 340,513 | 30,067 | 3.9% |
| Business, Finance and Administration Occupations | 338,253 | 20,528 | 1.9% |
| Management Occupations | 155,333 | 7,123 | 0.9% |
| Occupations in Social Science, Education, Government Services and Religion | 143,746 | 17,917 | 1.8% |
| Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations | 139,898 | 4,073 | 1.8% |
| Occupations Unique to Primary Industry | 110,244 | -2,810 | 3.5% |
| Health Occupations | 101,848 | 1,434 | 0.9% |
| Occupations Unique to Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities | 72,125 | 2,334 | 2.2% |
| Occupations in Art, Culture, Recreation and Sport | 41,973 | -5,836 | 1.6% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 12*

# Education

## MORE ALBERTANS IN THE LABOUR FORCE OBTAIN DEGREES

In 2006, 61.4% of Albertans in the labour force had a university degree, a post-secondary certificate or diploma, or some post-secondary education.

The percentage of high school graduates in the labour force increased from 23.2% to 23.6% from one year ago and has been steadily increasing since 2002. The number of people with a university degree experienced an upward trend from 2004 onwards, moving up by 3.2 percentage points over the last three years. (*Figure 13 - Alberta Labour Force Educational Attainment Trends, 2002 - 2006*)

**Alberta Labour Force Educational Attainment Trends, 2002 - 2006**

| Education Level | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 to 8 years | 2.3% | 2.5% | 2.1% | 2.0% | 1.8% |
| Some secondary | 14.0% | 13.8% | 13.7% | 12.3% | 13.2% |
| High school diploma | 21.6% | 22.4% | 22.9% | 23.2% | 23.6% |
| Some post-secondary | 10.4% | 10.3% | 10.4% | 9.1% | 8.4% |
| Post-secondary certificate or diploma | 33.8% | 33.1% | 33.3% | 33.0% | 32.1% |
| University: bachelor's degree | 13.0% | 13.0% | 12.8% | 14.9% | 15.0% |
| University: graduate degree | 5.1% | 4.9% | 4.9% | 5.4% | 5.8% |

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 13*

# Hours Worked

## ALBERTANS WORKED MORE HOURS IN 2006

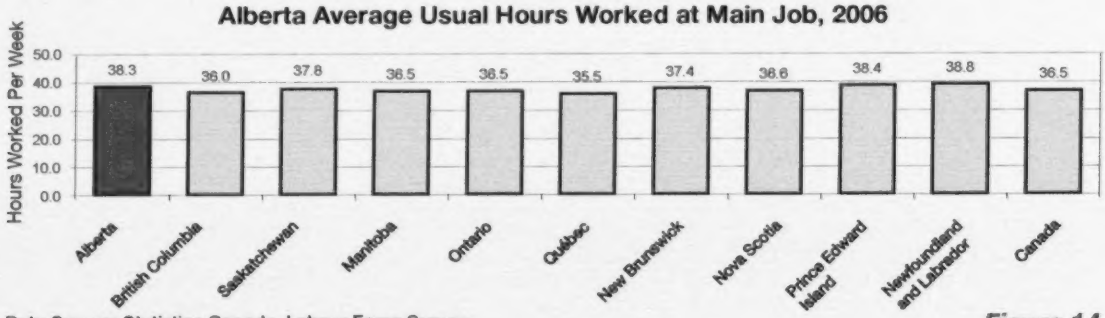
Alberta's employees worked more hours in 2006, at 38.3 hours, compared to 38.1 hours in 2005.

Albertans also worked the third highest usual number of hours per week at their main job.

Usual hours were the number of hours usually worked in a typical week, regardless of whether they were paid. (*Figure 14 - Alberta Average Usual Hours Worked at Main Job, 2006*)

Newfoundland had the highest usual number of hours worked at 38.8 hours and Prince Edward Island had the next highest at 38.4 hours. All three provinces' average usual hours worked were more than Canada's, at 36.5 hours.

**Alberta Average Usual Hours Worked at Main Job, 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

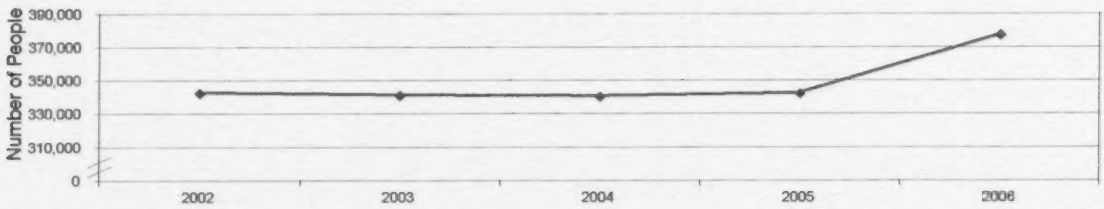
*Figure 14*

# Union Coverage

## MORE UNIONIZED WORKERS IN ALBERTA

The number of Albertans who were in a union or covered by a collective bargaining agreement increased between 2004 and 2006. The greatest year-over-year increase occurred between 2005 and 2006 by 37,068, or 10.8%. In addition, unionized industries accounted for the greatest percentage increase in total employment.

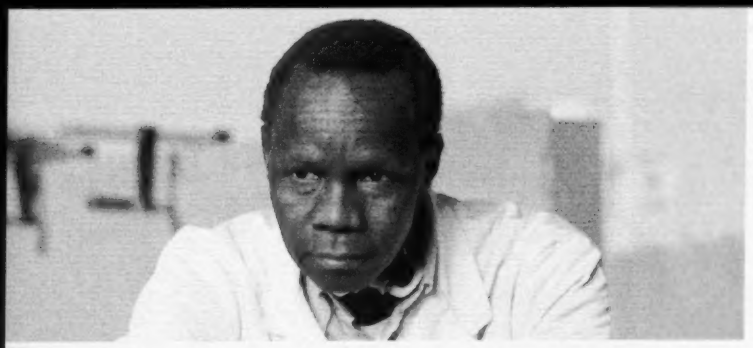
**Alberta Union Members and Non-Union Members Under Collective Bargaining Agreements, 2002 - 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 15*

NOTE: The pair of slanted lines are used to represent a discontinuity in the employment numbers and to display the finer details of the differences between the first and last data points.



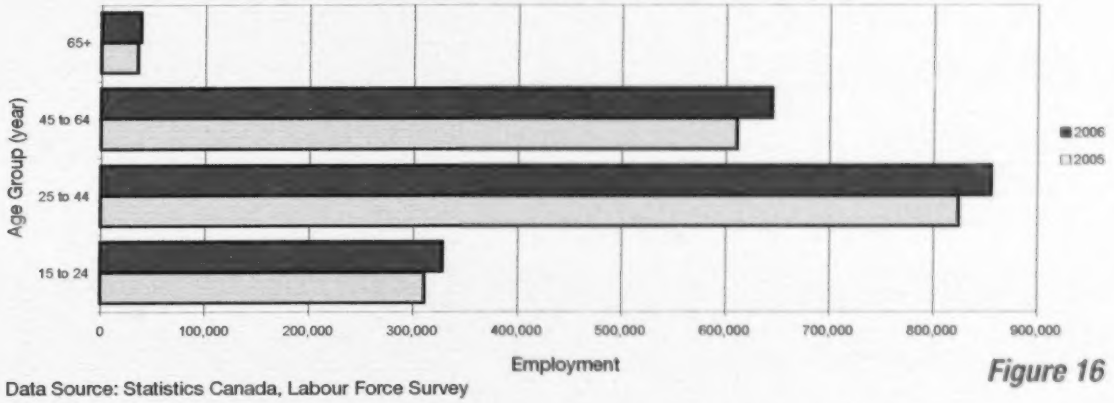
# Demographics

## MORE ALBERTANS IN ALL AGE GROUPS WERE EMPLOYED IN 2006

Individuals aged 25 - 44 years accounted for 45.8% of the total employed while those aged 45 to 64 years represented 34.5%. Alberta's employment rose the most within these two groups, by 31,720 and 33,726 respectively.

There were 17,777 more people employed in the age category of 15 - 24 years between 2005 and 2006. (*Figure 16 - Alberta Employment by Age Group, 2005 - 2006*)

**Alberta Employment by Age Group, 2005 - 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

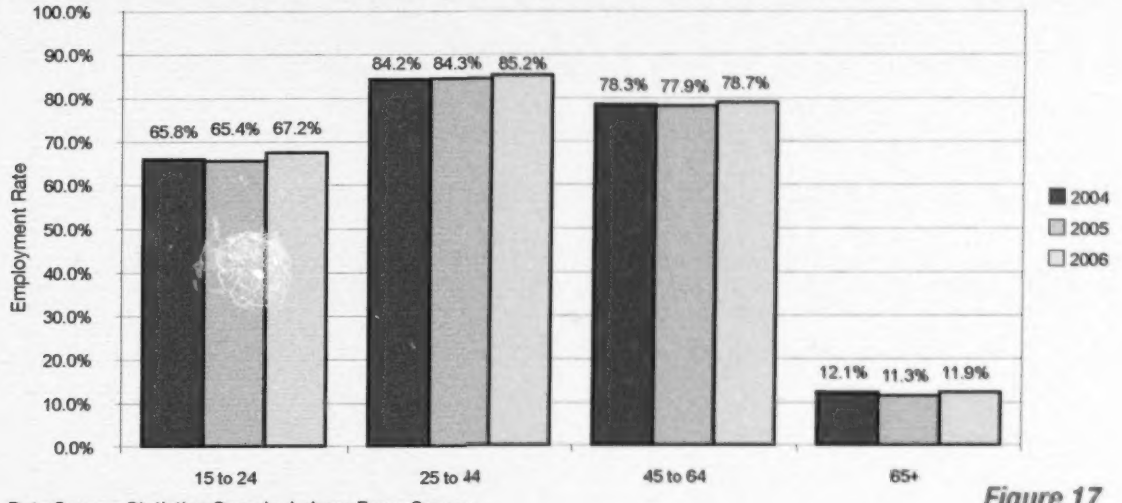
*Figure 16*

Employment rates also increased for all age groups but the greatest change occurred in the group aged 15 - 24 years, by 1.8 percentage points. (*Figure 17 - Alberta Employment Rates by Age Group, 2004 - 2006*)

The total number of retired Albertans has decreased since 2004.

In 2006, there were approximately 10,900 Albertans who retired, which was 700 less than in 2005. The average age for retirement in Alberta in 2006 was 63.9 years compared to 63.0 and 63.3 in 2005 and 2004 respectively.

**Alberta Employment Rates by Age Group, 2004 - 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

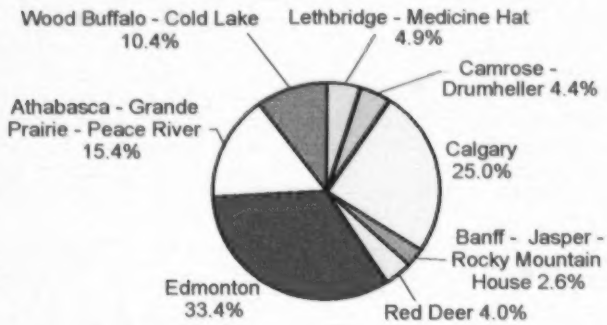
*Figure 17*

# Aboriginal People

## ABORIGINAL PEOPLE LIVING OFF-RESERVE EXPERIENCED POSITIVE EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Employment for the off-reserve Aboriginal population rose from 59,600 in 2005 to 62,717 in 2006, representing an increase of 3,117. The Edmonton economic region accounted for the largest percentage of employed Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Alberta, or 33.4%. (*Figure 18 - Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve Percentage of Employment by Economic Region, 2006*)

**Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve Percentage of Employment by Economic Region, 2006**


Wood Buffalo - Cold Lake 10.4%
Lethbridge - Medicine Hat 4.9%
Camrose - Drumheller 4.4%
Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River 15.4%
Calgary 25.0%
Banff - Jasper - Rocky Mountain House 2.6%
Edmonton 33.4%
Red Deer 4.0%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 18*

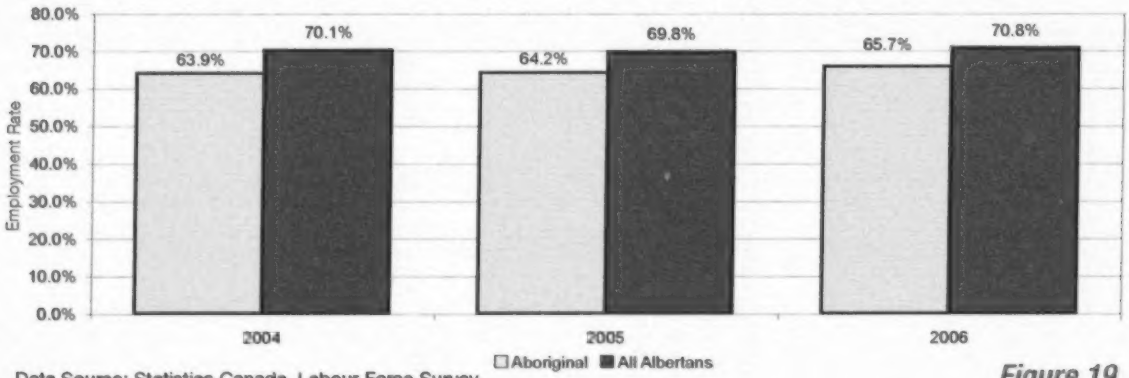
The unemployment rate stood at 7.1%, 1.9 percentage points lower than in 2005.

Calgary, Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River and Edmonton economic regions experienced the largest increase in employed Aboriginal people living off-reserve. Calgary rose by 3,750, or 31.5%, to 15,650; Athabasca - Grande Prairie - Peace River went up by 2,025, or 26.6%, to 9,625; and Edmonton increased by 1,650, or 8.5%, to 20,950. Economic regions outside of Edmonton and Calgary accounted for 26,117 employed Aboriginal people.

In 2006, the industries that employed the largest number of Aboriginal people living off-reserve remained the same as last year's. They were Retail and Wholesale Trade, 11,967; Construction, 8,833; and Health Care and Social Assistance, 6,367.

The employment rate for Aboriginal people living off-reserve continued to increase from 2005 to 2006. (*Figure 19 - Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve Employment Rates, 2004 - 2006*)

**Alberta Aboriginal People Living Off-Reserve Employment Rates, 2004 - 2006**




Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

*Figure 19*

06

# Annual Alberta Labour Market Review

Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry is your source for career, workplace and labour market information.

For more information on Alberta's labour market and to find the following publications:

*2006 Annual Alberta Regional Labour Market Review*

*Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Packages*

*Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook (2006 - 2016)*

*Labour Productivity in Alberta*

*Alberta Wage and Salary Survey*

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